

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----029971 211730Z /53

O R 211712Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5346
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 10252

EXDIS

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: CONSULTATIVEGROUP'SNEXT STEPS

1. LOW AND SEITZ MET GRAHAM AND STEEL FOR LUNCH JUNE 21
TO REVIEW NEXT STEPS. THEY PLAN TO MEET AGAIN WEDNESDAY
AFTERNOON, JUNE 22, FOR FINAL WRAP-UP BEFORE THURSDAY'S
MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND DR. OWEN. THE DISCUSSION
COVERED THREE MAIN AREAS.

2. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP'S SCHEDULE,
GRAHAM MADE CLEAR OWEN'S DESIRE TO MOVE AHEAD AS QUICKLY
AS POSSIBLE AS WELL AS THE DIFFICULTY HE WAS HAVING
GETTING MINISTERIAL-LEVEL APPROVAL FOR SUCH MOVEMENT. HE
PROPOSES TO BEGIN THE NEXT ROUND JULY 5 IN LUSAKA WHERE
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THE CG WOULD RECEIVE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S PROPOSALS
ON THE CONSTITUTION AND TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS. IT WOULD
THEN TRAVEL TO SALISBURY TO SPEND APPROXIMATELY THREE
DAYS THEREAND RETURN TO LONDON PERHAPS WITH A STOP IN
LUSAKA. GRAHAM WOULD HOPE TO GET BACK BY JULY 11 IN
ORDER TO DRAW UP THE FINAL PACKAGE AND RECEIVE MINIS-
TERIAL APPROVAL WHICH WOULD ALLOW OWEN TO TRAVEL TO SOUTH

AFRICA AND SALISBURY JULY 19 IN ORDER TO PRESENT PACKAGE. THE MORE WE EXAMINED THIS PROPOSAL THE MORE UNREALISTIC IT APPEARED. LOW POINTED OUT THAT IF THEY WANTED TO MAKE REALISTIC PROPOSALS ON THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND AND LAW AND ORDER IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL IN WASHINGTON AND PRESENT A PLAN WHICH HAD CLEAR U.S. BACKING. GRAHAM AGREED AND RECOGNIZED IT WAS UNLIKELY OWEN WOULD GET HIS OWN GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL IN SUCH A SHORT TIME.

3. E DISCUSSED THE CG'S PRESENTATION IN SALISBURY IN TERMS OF WHETHER IT WAS ADVISABLE TO PRESENT THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION AND TRANSITION GOVERNMENT WORKED OUT BY STEEL AND TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT LAST WEEK. TO DO SO WOULD BE TO ANTICIPATE AND TAKE SOME OF THE FORCE OUT OF OWEN'S PRESENTATION OF THE FINAL PACKAGE A FEW WEEKS LATER. LOW SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO ORIENT THIS PRESENTATION AROUND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S PROPOSALS ASSUMING THEY WILL BE THE MAXIMUM NATIONALIST DEMANDS. THIS WOULD GIVE A LITTLE MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR OWEN'S FINAL PRESENTATION.

4. THE GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED T MURSDAY PARIS CONVERSATIONS. GRAHAM THOUGHT THAT OWEN WOULD WANT TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE SECRETARY HIS CONCERN TO MOVE AHEAD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. OWEN IS MOTIVATED NOT ONLY BY HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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DESIRE TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT BY HIS PREOCCUPATION THAT SOMETHING COULD HAPPEN TO SPEED

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THE DEMISE OF THE SMITH GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT CAN TAKE OVER. HE WILL THUS URGE THE SECRETARY TO AGREE TO THE SCHEDULE MORE OR LESS AS OUTLINED ABOVE. GRAHAM BELIEVES OWEN WILL ALSO ASK THE SECRETARY TO GIVE IDEA OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT A COMMONWEALTH MILITARY FORCE CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY FIVE BATTALIONS, ONE OF WHICH MIGHT BE BRITISH.

5. IT IS LOW'S VIEW THAT OWEN'S PROPOSED SCHEDULE IS NOT REALISTIC. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ITSELF CAN PREPARE A COMPROMISE POSITION ON THE BASIS OF THE SECOND ROUND OF TALKS AND GET MINISTERIAL APPROVAL. BEYOND THAT A WASHINGTON REVIEW OF THE FINAL PACKAGE IS IMPORTANT TO ITS PRESENTATION AND SUCCESS. IT MAY WELL BE THAT WE WOULD WANT TO CONSIDER REVIEWING IT WITH THE NATIONALISTS PRIOR TO OWEN'S VISIT
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TO SALISBURY. WE WOULD THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT THE SECRETARY SHOULD CAUTION OWEN ABOUT THE TIMING, REPEATING HIS INVITATION TO THE GROUP TO REVIEW ITS PACKAGE IN WASHINGTON WHICH HE SENT OWEN IN HIS LETTER OF JUNE 8.
BREWSTER

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